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# Nil Safont's Exploration of Different Social Contexts Comes to GCA Gallery

Exhibition Reviews



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Eli Anapur

Large-scale artworks, painted in public spaces, are among the most defining markers of our cultural moment. They show us the movements and situations in **urban dwellings**, moments that capture the attention of street artists that often don't reach other art forms, and include strong messages regarding contemporary alienation, environmental endangerment, and other issues that preoccupy the contemporary world.

However, due to media specificity, it's impossible to see these works collected in one place. They are scattered across cities and countries and can be only accessed through online presentations or in **specialized exhibitions** that use photography as an interlocutor between works and viewers.

One such exhibition is *Habitats* at GCA Gallery, which opened recently. It brings together large-scale mural works of the Spanish artist **Nil Safont** through a series of photographs taken and collected by the artist in the last three years, displayed alongside the works developed from his other photographs.



Nil Safont - The Vigilant

## From Murals to Photographs

The selected works were made during Safont's travels around the world, capturing **murals** he painted in different locations. Along with the painterly work, Safont is engaged in **social research** that provides the foundation for his artistic expression. He looks into the reality and daily life of the societies he visits and tries to understand their inner workings. He also uses a camera to capture scenes and moments on the streets, thus gathering unique information that he later transposes into art.

One factor is particularly interesting for the artist - **the limits**. Here, the limits refer to the factor that delineates and determines the relationships between human beings and their environment, behaviors, and norms.

The exhibition is a reflection on the limits, particularly the limits between **the domestic and public space**, home and street, interior and exterior. The everyday scenes transport us to various daily situations, enhancing the perceived and invisible limits that may or may not be similar to ours.



Left: Nil Safont - The Danse / Right: Nil Safont - Tied Up

## Nil Safont

**Nil Safont** (b. 1995), comes from Barcelona. He graduated in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona, learning about different art practices and the expanding art field. From the age of 12, he was immersed in the urban art scene and was interested in using public space as a conveyor of messages.

He has been present on the national and international art scene since 2017 and has participated in various urban art festivals and art events. His initial inspiration and references come from modern-era painters such as Ramon Casas and Sorolla.

Safont's style is **figural**, representative, and usually large in scale, although in recent years, he has diversified his practice to include oil paintings in order to broaden the reach of his art and enter other artistic circuits, such as galleries and alternative art spaces.



Nil Safont - The Forbidden II

## Habitats at GCA Gallery

Nil Safont is interested in working with different environments and urban spaces he encounters during his travels and uses walls as canvases for his large-scale murals. The subjects are closely related to local social contexts and communicate clear messages about the **social environments** in which the works develop.

The exhibition *Habitats* will be on view at [GCA Gallery](#) in Paris **until April 16th, 2022**.

Featured image: Nil Safont - The Road. All images courtesy of GCA Gallery.

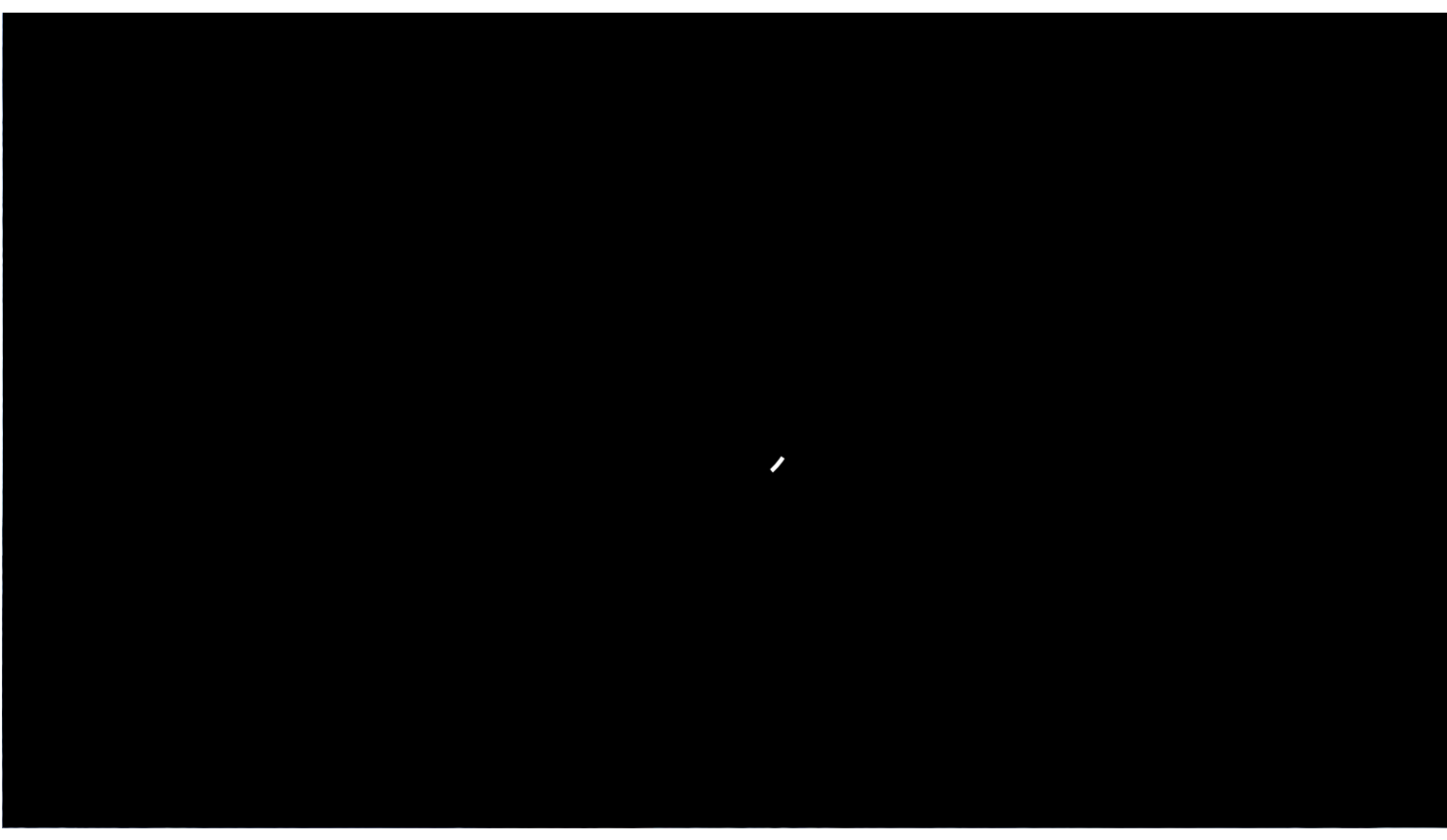
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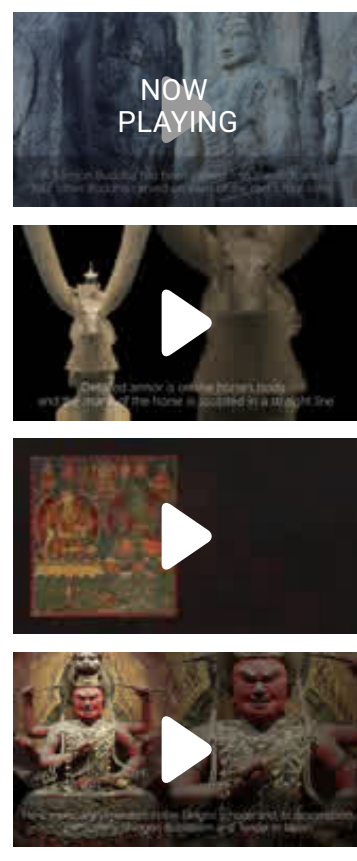
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